



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Testimony by:
Rep. Mary Fritz
On
S.B. 1038 "An Act Concerning the Definition of Surgery."

March 20, 2013

Chairman Gerratana, Chairman Johnson and honorable members of the Public Health Committee, for the record I am State Representative Mary Fritz, fortunately serving the towns of Cheshire and Wallingford.

I appear before you today to speak against S.B. "An Act Concerning the Definition of Surgery." I know this is a scope of practice issue but this is also a turf war issue.

In the late 80's, through the early part of the 90's, this issue was before us over and over again. It truly was a war between optometrists and ophthalmologists (there was no e-mail at the time so I know I personally received two trash bags full, not 13 gallon size) of correspondences from both sides. (I answered them all!)

In the end, the optometrists were allowed to perform the extraction protocol which is about to be denied by the legislation. Although, I realize this legislation addresses several other contentious specialties, my legislative memory remembers without question the turf war between the optometrists and ophthalmologists - a war which lasted for years.

Please...let us not go there again. Once was enough! For the sake of all our constituents, please kill this bill.

Thank you,

Mary Fritz
Assistant Deputy Speaker